

Atty. Docket No.2003-0058-01  
USSN 10/672,182

### REMARKS

The Abstract is objected to for exceeding 150 words; accordingly, an amended abstract has been provided. Figure 25a is objected to for not including elements 252, 254, 256. A replacement sheet has been provided. Also, Figure 19 is objected to for including element 66. A replacement sheet for Figure 19 has been provided as well.

Claims 31-34 are objected to for including the phrase "if hardens" instead of "it hardens". Amended claims are provided that correct his obvious typographical error. Applicants urge that this amendment is not provided to overcome any prior nor does it narrow the claim. Instead, it has the effect of broadening the claims by removing any confusion or ambiguity caused by the typographical error.

In view of the replacement figures and the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections described above.

Claims 39-42 stand rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112 because the Examiner contends that the specification does not support the claim recitation of a C28000 brass alloy. Applicants would like to draw the Examiner's attention to Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 8, which all describe features related to a C28000 electrode. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 15-38 and 43-46 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Hori et al., (US 6,810,061). Claims 47-50 are indicated as having allowable subject matter but are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. Applicants urge that Hori et al. is not considered prior art under 35 USC § 102(e) because its applicable date is August 22, 2002. The present application is a continuation-in-part of at least two earlier applications: Serial No. 10/081,589 filed February 21, 2002 and Serial No. 10/104,502 filed March 22, 2002. Applicants urge that these applications describe the subject matter presently claimed and, thus, this present application can rely on these earlier applications to establish a priority date before August 22, 2002. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 102 of claims 15-38 and 43-46 are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that claims 15-50 are in condition for allowance and passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

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Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge \$120.00 to our Deposit Account Number 03-4060 for the one-month extension of time fee. Applicants do not believe any other fees are due in connection with this submission, however if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this submission to our Deposit Account No. 03-4060.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Wesley Strickland; Reg. No. 44,363

June 8, 2006

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replacement Figures 19 and 25a are submitted herewith.